

AROUND THE WORLD



At Manila Earthquake Scene

A Chinese woman says the rosary while waiting for word on the fate of her relatives trapped in a Manila apartment house which collapsed during the Aug. 2 earthquake. More than 200 people were rescued from the rubble of the building. (RNS Photo)

Priests Tax Selves For Charity

Vienna, Austria (NC) — Priests of the Vienna archdiocese will donate two per cent of their salaries to international relief agencies. The priests made this decision in response to an appeal by the new archdiocesan priests' council stressing the co-responsibility of all Catholics for the welfare of people and the Church in other countries, in accordance with the Second Vatican Council.

Anglicans Double Rome Center Fund

London (RNS) — The Anglican Center in Rome with Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury opened during his visit to Pope Paul in March, 1966, will be strengthened as the result of a decision made by the Lambeth Conference. The center contains an extensive library available to Catholics wishing to learn about Anglican doctrine and liturgy. It gets a \$9,600 annual grant from Anglican authorities. The sum is expected to be doubled next year.

Relief Workers Leaving Vietnam

Auckland, New Zealand (RNS) — New Zealanders working in South Vietnam with Asian Christian Service are being withdrawn because it is too dangerous for people from countries militarily aligned to Saigon to remain there, it was reported here.

The Auckland Methodist newspaper said that the terms of the three New Zealand church representatives leaving South Vietnam had expired. Other New Zealanders there will be transferred to Laos, it stated.

Baby Food Flown To Biafra

Amsterdam (RNS) — A Dutch aircraft left here on a chartered flight with 30 tons of baby food collected by a U.S. Catholic mission society for the relief of Biafran children. The aircraft will fly to the Portuguese island of Sao Tome and a local aviation company will fly the food from there to Biafra's only airfield, located in the dense forest country.

Religions Pool Efforts to Aid Biafra

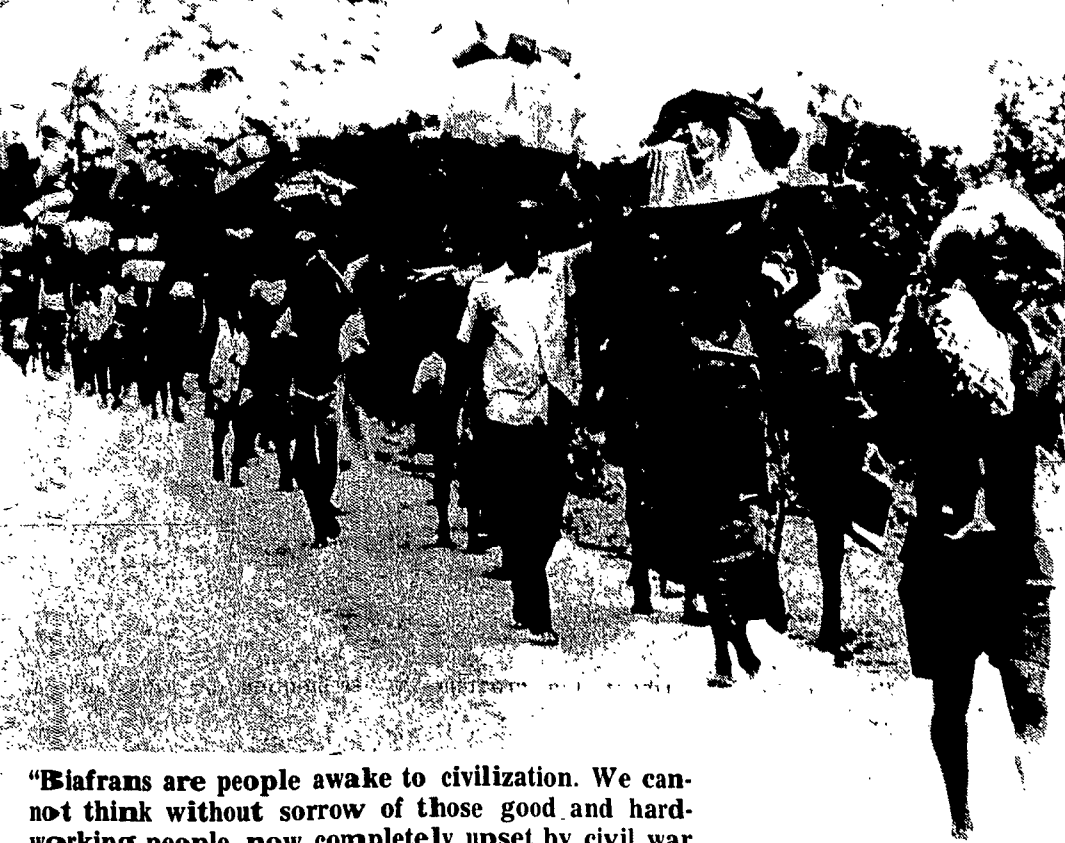
Religious News Service Religious interest in Biafra, denounced by a Nigerian official as "interfering," is rising to new heights of involvement and ecumenical cooperation as the prospect of mass starvation faces refugees in the small, besieged country.

Varying estimates have been given on how many innocent Biafran civilians will die as a result of the war in Nigeria's former Eastern Region. Even the smallest figure generally given by observers, one million, is enormous and a consensus has settled on this as a fair estimate of those who face starvation this Summer. Others have given estimates twice or even four times as large.

Besides starvation, refugees face a whole array of medical problems resulting from uprooting, exposure and crowding in—more than 600 refugee villages.

Whether or not they all face death, the simple fact is that 4.5 million persons have been made homeless by a war which most people in Europe and the United States virtually ignored until it reached its final, dramatic phase.

Some 1.8 million of these refugees, members of Biafra's largest tribe, the Ibos, had come back to Biafra earlier, following a massacre throughout the Northern Region of



"Biafrans are people awake to civilization. We cannot think without sorrow of those good and hard-working people, now completely upset by civil war and dying of hunger and illness." — Pope Paul VI.

Nigeria in which, it is reported, more than 30,000 Ibos had been killed.

To feed all these homeless people, experts estimate, more than 200 tons of food must be brought into Biafra daily.

Unable to move these supplies into the encircled country by land or sea, international agencies, including the Red Cross, the World Council of Churches and the Catholic agency, Caritas, have been flying by night through Nigerian anti-aircraft fire to land food and medicine on improvised airstrips in the Biafran interior.

Aid for the flights has also been given by many national religious agencies including, in the United States, Catholic Relief Services and Church World Service, the relief agency of the National Council of Churches.

The flights are managed by a private, charter agency operating from Portugal and the Portuguese-owned island of Sao Tome, off the West coast of Africa. The cost of transportation alone is about \$20,000 per flight.

Against this background, Nigeria's commissioner of transport, Joseph S. Tarka charged that the Churches have been "interfering in Nigeria's civil war."

Tarka singled out his own Church for special blame. "I myself am a Catholic," he said. "I was born a Catholic, but I object to the Catholic Church interfering in Nigeria."

He complained that "everyone seems to think the only Christians in the country are in Biafra."

A Biafran medical student

in the United States, Dr. Nehe Nwankwa said recently in New York that religion is not the chief cause of the war. But he called it a strong underlying factor in the massacre of Ibos in Nigeria in 1966, the mass return of Ibos to their home region in the months following this massacre and finally the declaration of Biafran independence last year.

He said that the Ibos look on Islam as "a very conservative religion" and see themselves as being "very progressive."

"Some have called us the Jews of Africa," Nwankwa said, citing the Ibos' desire for education, their progressive attitudes and the charge that they have been subjected to a "jihad" as reasons for the name.

Priests at Helm Of Seizure of Chile Cathedral

Santiago, Chile—(NC) — A large group of priests and laymen took control of the cathedral here (Aug. 11) for about 14 hours to protest what it called the "wasteful spending" on Pope Paul VI's forthcoming visit to Latin America. Pope Paul will go to Bogota, Colombia, Aug. 22-24 for the 39th international Eucharistic Congress.

The group urged the Church to unite with the people in their struggle for justice and love.

The group—which reportedly included eight priests and about 200 young men and women—prevented regular communicants from attending Sunday Masses, but held their own Mass before leaving the cathedral. On the previous day (Aug. 10) the group had planted about 20 persons in the church. Shortly before the following day, the protesters opened on a four-day protest to slip in. After that, only the press and radio representatives were allowed in so that the group could explain its reasons for the protest.

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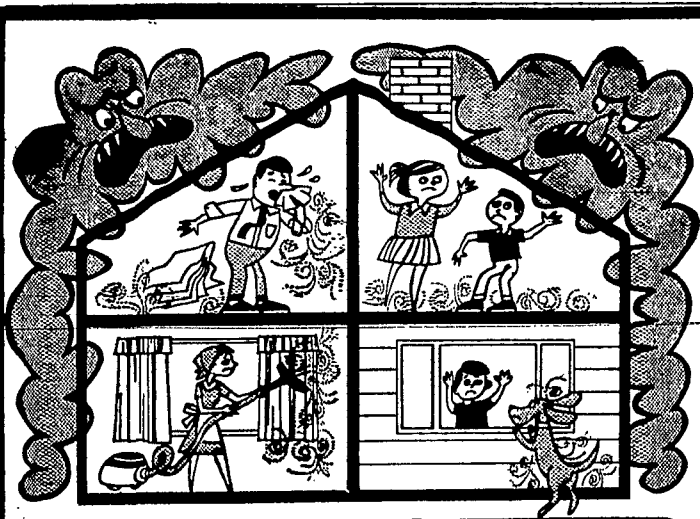
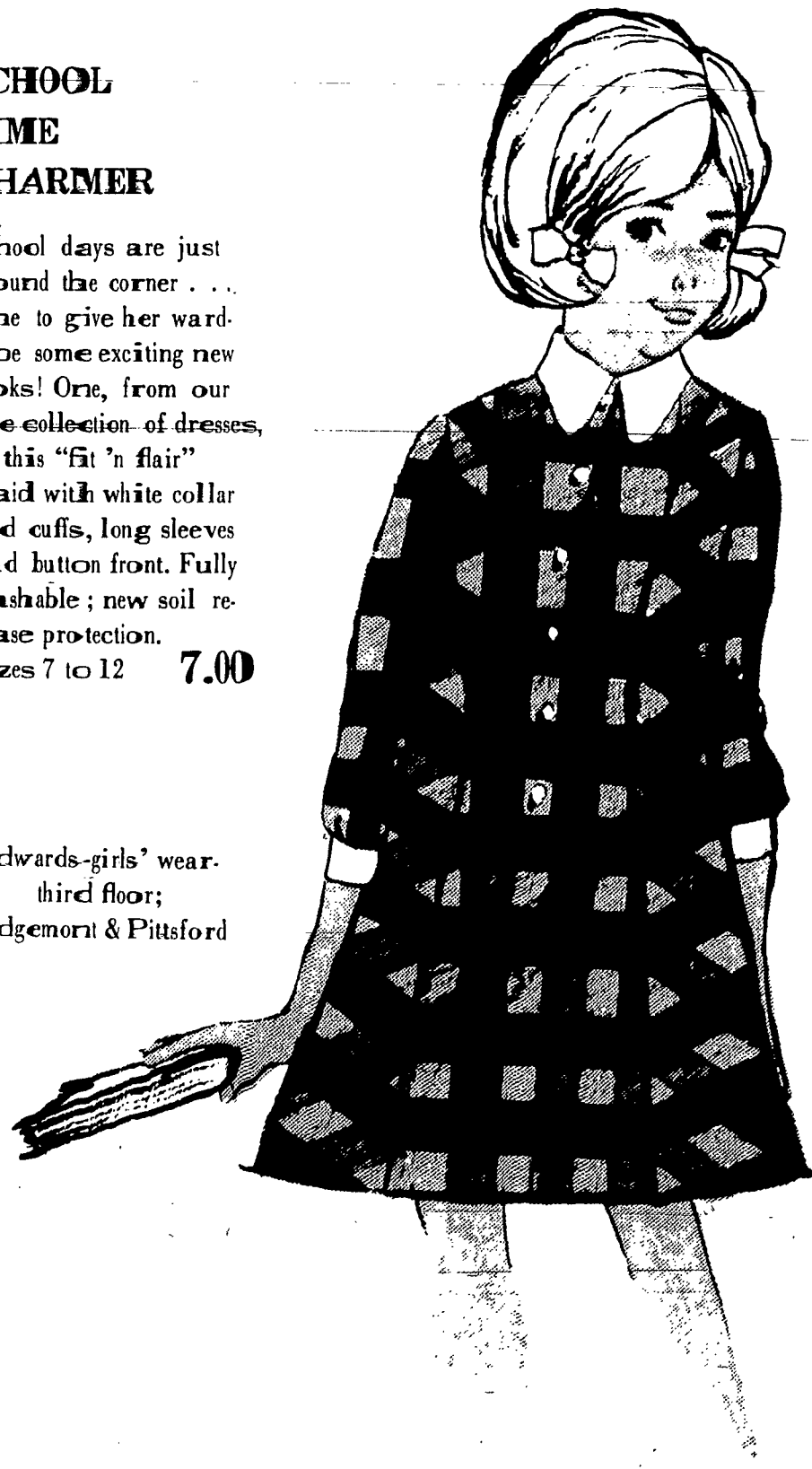
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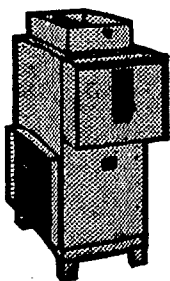


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